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LETTER DATED 9 AUGUST 1993 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to make some observations as to the Report of the Co-chairmen of the Steering Committee on the Activities of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia (S/26260), dated 6 August 1993. The Croatian Government commends the tireless effort of the Co-chairmen in their difficult peace-building task, but we wish to take note of certain passages in the report which, because of the manner in which they are written, can lead to misunderstandings and confusion as to the position and behaviour of the Croatian Government in regards to, both, the peace talks and the conflict in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Firstly, the Croatian Government does not consider there to be any "Serb-Croat proposal" for the settlement of the war in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as is often cited in the aforementioned report. While the Bosnian Serbs and the Bosnian Croats have both accepted the principles of the Constitutional Agreement of the Union of Republics of Bosnia and Herzegovina, differences between the two sides exist and there is no specific arrangement which had been worked out between them that would warrant referring to this common acceptance of principles as a joint agreement. It should be noted that the Bosnian Croats and Muslims had both agreed to accept the terms of the Vance-Owen plan, yet this plan was never referred to as a "Croat-Muslim agreement".

In this regard, I wish to draw particular attention to paragraph 31 of the report which states, "the Serb and Croat sides repeatedly referred to the fact that the Muslim majority republic would contain most of the major population centres of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and also the majority of the industrial centres and natural resources, and that this justified the majority Serb republic having a higher percentage of the territory than envisaged in the Vance-Owen Plan". The Government of the Republic of Croatia, whose representatives attended the peace talks in Geneva, can attest to the fact that the Bosnian Croat side never attempted to justify any increase in the size of the proposed Serb "republic" in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Furthermore, my Government wishes to address the claim, as made in paragraph 14 of the report, that the Bosnian Croat forces are continuing to build up in the Prozor area with the support of the Croatian Army. It must be stated that there are no Croatian Army units involved in the war in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Croatian Government is aware that there are former members of the Croatian Army who are involved in the hostilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. These are mostly Croats who are originally from Bosnia and Herzegovina but who had joined the Croatian Army when the war first broke out in Croatia. Especially after the recent Muslim offensive against Croatian populated areas in central Bosnia, many of these individuals have resigned from the Croatian Army in order to join their relatives and friends in the defence of their homes. The Republic of Croatia has no legal or moral right to prevent such actions.

I would kindly request that you have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladimir DROBNJAK
Chargé d'affaires a.i.